

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01155 110254Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 /071 W

-----083921 111012Z /21

R 110130Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8418

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1155

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: EAID PDEV SHUM SEDU PDIP LA UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY REACTS TO ARREST OF ITS
TEACHERS BY THE LPDR

REF: A) VIENTIANE 0970

B) 76, VIENTIANE 2801

C) VIENTIANE 0845 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TOLD EMBOFF THAT ON AUGUST 3
HE DELIVERED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO SOMABAT CHOUNLAMANY,
DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT NO. TWO, IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. THE NOTE REFERRED TO THE JUNE ARREST AND EXPULSION
FROM THE LPDR OF TWO BRITISH TEACHERS WITH VOLUNTEER SERVICES
OVERSEAS (VSO) (REF A). IT WARNED THAT UNLESS THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT COULD BE CONFIDENT THAT ITS AID PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE
SUBJECT TO INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE IN THE FUTURE
THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD DISCONTINUE ITS
TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM.

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2. THE CHARGE SAID AN OFFICIAL FROM THE BRITISH
FOREIGN OFFICE CALLED ON LPDR AMBASSADOR IN LONDON
TO DELIVER A SIMILAR NOTE. HE ADDED THAT HE DID
NOT EXPECT A FORMAL REPLY FROM THE LAO GOVERNMENT.

3. BRITISH CHARGE EXPECTS ONE BRITISH COUNCIL AND

THREE VSO TEACHERS TO RETURN TO LAOS AFTER THE SCHOOL BREAK TO FINISH THE SECOND YEAR OF THEIR TWO YEAR CONTRACT. ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE LAO HAD DENIED A BRITISH REQUEST TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT OF A BRITISH COUNCIL TEACHER BECAUSE THE TEACHER HAD PROTESTED THE ARREST OF HIS LAO COUNTERPART, SALY CHITTAVORAVONG (REF B).

4. IN A DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF FOLLOWING THE JUNE RELEASE OF TWO VSO TEACHERS ARRESTED WITH JOURNALIST JOHN EVERINGHAM, THE VSO TEACHERS OBSERVED THAT THE VIENTIANE POLITICAL CLIMATE HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE OPPRESSIVE SINCE OCTOBER 1975. THE FIVE TEACHERS SAID THEY PARTICULARLY NOTICED THAT SINCE APRIL 1977 MORE CONSTRAINTS WERE IMPOSED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE OF TEACHING TASKS, PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH STUDENTS, AND PRIVATE LIVES. THE THREE TEACHERS WHO WOULD BE PERMITTED BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TEACHING NEXT SCHOOL SEMESTER IN OCTOBER SAID THEY PERSONALLY WANTED TO COMPLETE THEIR TWO YEAR CONTRACT OBLIGATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY QUESTIONED WHETHER THE LAO GOVERNMENT WOULD PERMIT THEM TO MAKE A WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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